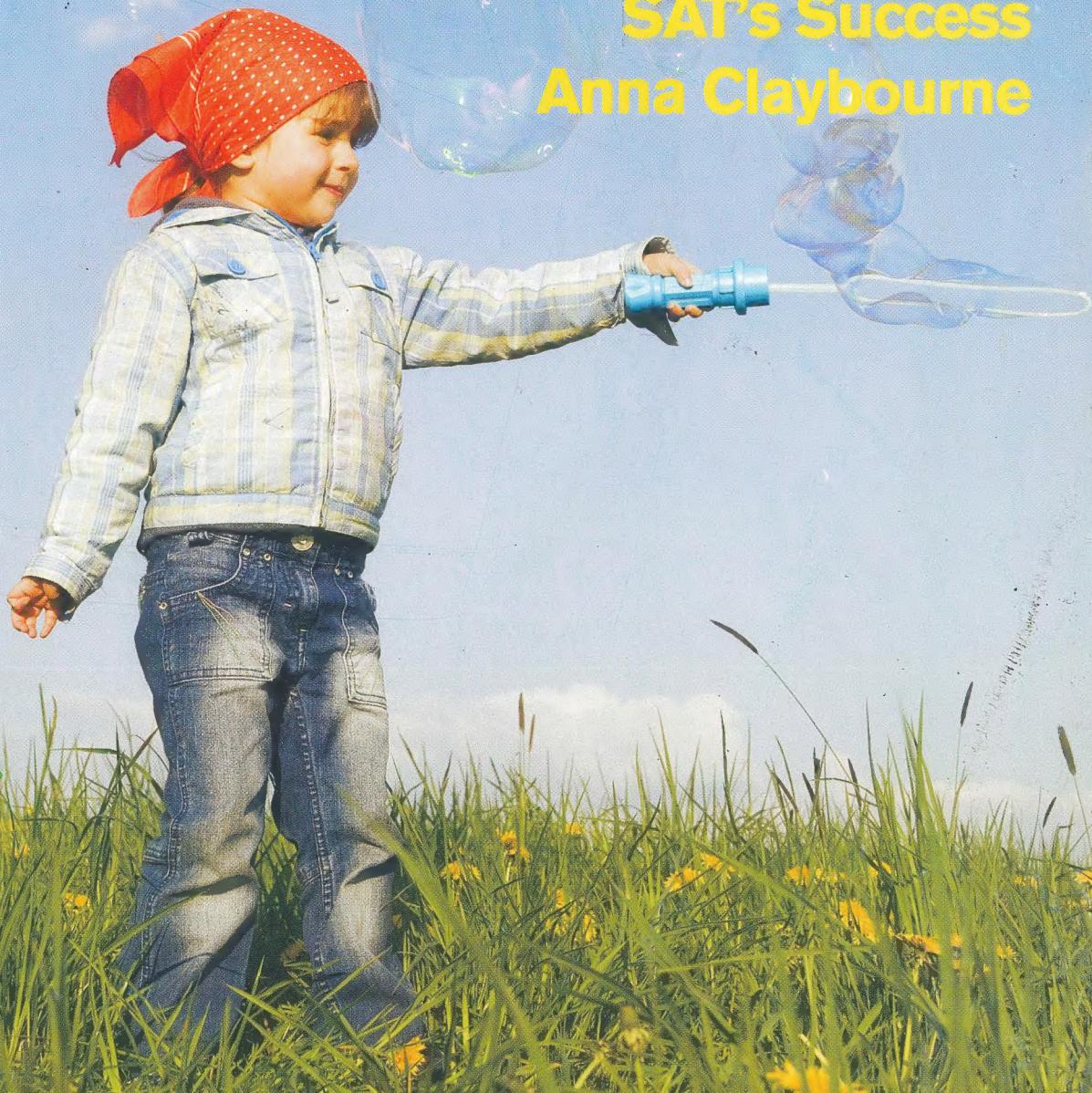


Family Magazine

Chuggington
Fifi & The Flower Tots
Adult Learners Week
Fostering Advice
SAT's Success
Anna Claybourne



NEWS | WHAT'S ON | COMPETITIONS | EDUCATION | HEALTH | CHILDCARE

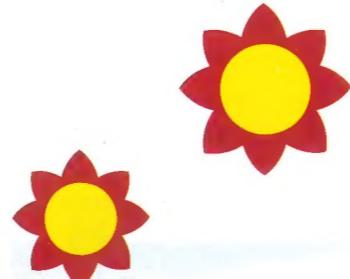
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Contents

- 04. Chuggington**
- 06. Fifi & The Flower Tots**
- 07. Adult Learner's Week**
A week of engaging activities for the whole family.
- 10. Fostering**
Advice on one of the most rewarding careers!
- 12. Healthy Eating**
The best nutrition for your family and a Taste of Lancashire Competition.
- 14. Are Frozen Foods the Way Forward?**
- 15. Organised Mum?**
Hints and tips to save on the weekly shop.
- 16. Football Crazy**
- 17. Kids Fashion**
- 18. Book Reviews**
- 19. Anna Claybourne?**
Family Mag meets the acclaimed children's author.
- 23. SAT's Success**
- 25. What's On?**
Family Magazine's up to the minute entertainment guide listing the best ways to both entertain and educate your children in the coming months.

Spring is almost here already, the time seems to fly past! Everyone here at Family Magazine is certainly going to be welcoming the sun! The snowy winter was lovely to look at but we are ready for the lambs, picnics in the park and relaxing outside in the evening. I'm sure the kids can't wait to be able to run around without slipping and sliding on ice and slush! While the coming months aren't set to be easy, the credit crunch is hitting everyone hard, maybe we can all find our inner child and see the fun in just spending time with friends and family. We've put got some great recipes in and some tips on keeping your food bills down so get cooking with the family, get entertaining and see you again in the summer!

Liz Burns *Editor*





Family Mag speaks to the man behind the hit childrens TV show!

How did the idea for Chuggington come about?

We felt that there was a place in the market for an animated train show that was contemporary and high tech – just like the world children are growing up in today. Our aim was to come up with a fresh, dynamic train show for the 21st century, but with some good old-fashioned values and strong storytelling. It's always so much fun to start with a blank sheet of paper and create a world from scratch. After lots of brainstorming, we settled on the idea that Chuggington would be a community. Rather than feature one main character, the stories centre on 3 trainee trains, Wilson, Brewster and Koko. We wanted their experiences to echo those of our young audience, as they learn by play, example and practise.

How does the show teach children about their personal relationships?

Chuggington is a big community and the stories are about character interactions and building relationships. Episodes deal with how our young characters cope with unfamiliar situations and challenges. The trainees have to learn to ask for help if they need it, or to take advice and instruction from older more experienced characters. The trainees are best friends and have to learn to share with each other, play well together, over come jealousy, work as a team, be patient and other important life lessons that the audience at home are also trying to deal with.

Was it your intention to help young children flourish in their personal relationships?

With pre-school shows you have a huge responsibility to your young and impressionable audience. You always hope that, apart from entertaining them, you can give them something positive to take away – whether it's how to play nicely, or knowing that it's always best to be truthful, improving social skills or inspiring confidence, independence and responsibility.

Are the characters based on anyone you know?

Actually no, not in this series! Developing the main characters was an organic process. Apart from having a good design, a good voice gives so much to a character and really brings it to life. This was the first time I've worked using children as the lead voices, which was a big challenge, but also hugely rewarding. The children put a lot of themselves into the characters they play, which gives them a real authenticity. I think the audience at home know if it's an adult voice pretending to be a child and don't really believe it.

Were you involved in the characters look?

Yes, I work closely with the art directors and character designers. It's a pretty involved process. We wanted characters that were based on real engines from all over the world. A rough sketch is done first. You can't just shove a face on – it very much has to be integrated into the features of the engine and that is always a challenge. Some just aren't suited. Once we have a sketch that captures the character, the next step is to translate it into a 3D model in the computer. Then we can really see how the proportions work and how the new character sits with our existing character line up. It's a long process! The cool thing about Chuggington is that every engine that was ever built is still in great working order; so you have steam engines living alongside modern electric trains. Trains are the only form of transport in Chuggington!



How are they games on the website beneficial to children?

The web games are designed to entertain, but also to teach. Some encourage positive behaviour and heighten awareness. For example, the Engine Check-Up reinforces that it's good to go to the doctor and get a check up if something's wrong. Other games are analytical – involving matching shapes and repeating patterns. There are creative games too, for making pictures and sounds. And some are just for fun! They focus on timing, trial-and-error discovery, reflexes and basic computer clicking skills.

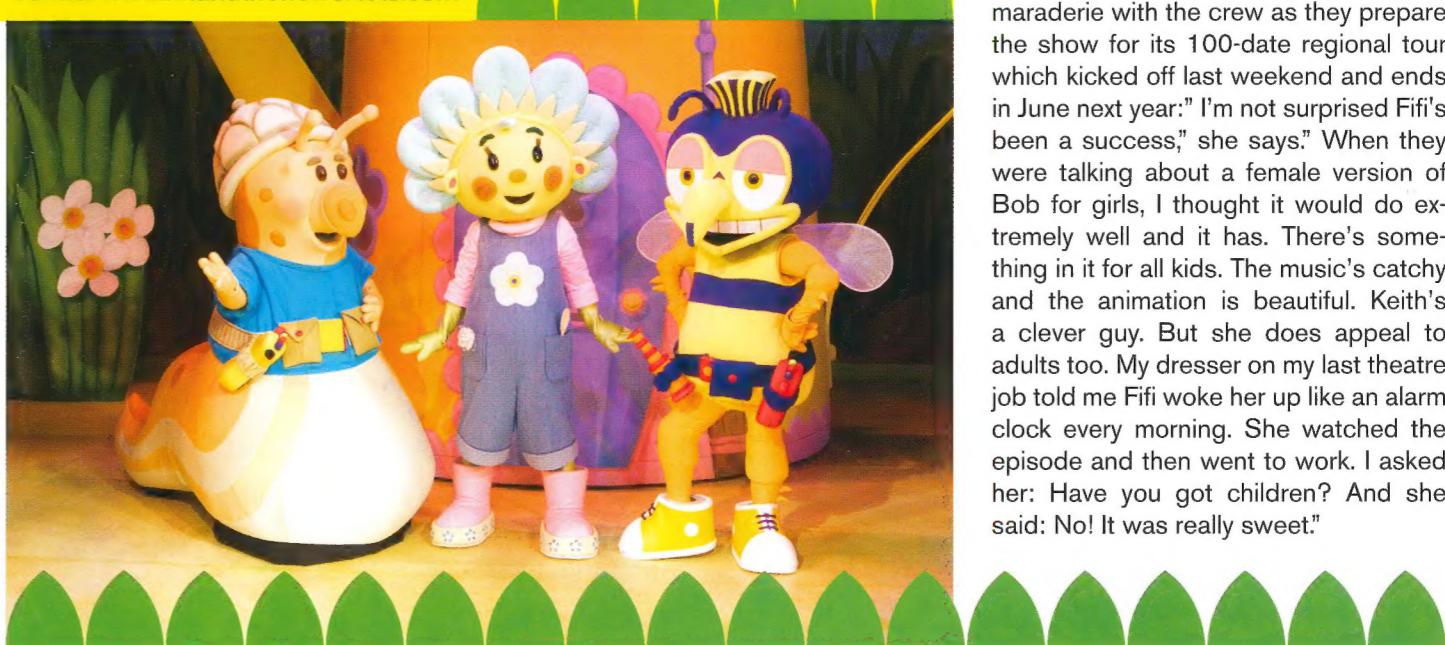
Did you take any inspiration from other children's programmes of your childhood?

Growing up I loved children's programmes especially the animated ones like Bagpuss, The Clangers, Trumpton, The Magic Roundabout, etc. They were all great stop motion shows – a technique where you move the puppet a frame at a time and take a picture. They inspired me to work in that medium and get into the industry. I don't think I could say that they inspired my work on Chuggington though – things have moved on such a long way since then – in every way – story telling, sophistication, production values, lighting, animation. It's amazing how technology has advanced. Chuggington is completely made with computers. I can pretty much work anywhere in the world as long as there's an internet connection!

FIFI & THE FLOWER TOTS



Please see website for your nearest venue! www.fifiandtheflowertots.com



Jane Horrocks, both a name and a voice everyone knows and loves. Though she has maintained a high profile for many years, her private life has remained low-key, exactly how she likes it. Jane's career has included film, television and acclaimed theatre performances, in the last three years, her enduring appeal has extended to the under fives in the hit TV series Fifi and The Flower-tots in which she voices both the central character Fifi who lives with her friends in a magical garden and the prim and proper Primrose.

Now a global phenomenon, since it premiered on Five's Milkshake! And Nick Jr in May 2005, the show was the brainchild of Bob The Builder creator Keith Chapman, and is hitting the road in theatres across the UK for the next year. We meet for our interview in the recording studios in Soho where Jane is putting the finishing touches to additional voiceover work for the tour before heading off for her family holidays in the Scilly Isles.

She loves working with her fellow voiceover stars and there is a sense of camaraderie with the crew as they prepare the show for its 100-date regional tour which kicked off last weekend and ends in June next year: "I'm not surprised Fifi's been a success," she says. "When they were talking about a female version of Bob for girls, I thought it would do extremely well and it has. There's something in it for all kids. The music's catchy and the animation is beautiful. Keith's a clever guy. But she does appeal to adults too. My dresser on my last theatre job told me Fifi woke her up like an alarm clock every morning. She watched the episode and then went to work. I asked her: Have you got children? And she said: No! It was really sweet."

Adult Learners' Week 2009

Adult Learners' Week, the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education's flagship campaign, takes place each May in order to encourage thousands of adults of all ages and backgrounds to give learning a go. Engaging on average 50,000 people across the country every year, the campaign aims to highlight the benefits of learning through celebrating outstanding learning achievements and holding events to inspire new people to take up learning. One of the key themes of the week is to highlight and promote the benefits of family learning, widening the learning experience between parents, grandparents and children.

In 2008, hundreds of family learning events took place to celebrate the week and to engage new people in fun and interesting activities:

For example, shoppers at the White Rose Centre in Leeds were treated to a mixture of taster session which included a family fun weekend where adults could obtain a qualification in English and Maths, while children were treated to a Mad Hatter's tea party with a story from a celebrity author. A Wymondham school in Norfolk took a trip back into the Middle Ages as part of a family education event. Around 50 families tried their hands at making their own coats of arms and knight's helmets as part of the Medieval Madness event, which was an excellent opportunity for parents and children to learn and play together. And in libraries and museums across the country a multitude of 'bit-size' taster sessions took place that the whole family could join in.

A key part of Adult Learners' Week is its awards scheme, celebrating hundreds of learners every year. The winners' stories are excellent examples of the benefits of learning for all the family. For example, Paul Buswell's learning journey started at his 7 year old son's junior school. The 32 year old was not a good student as a child and says that he never passed an exam in his life, but he joined a numeracy programme because he was determined to help his little boy with his homework. He says, 'The first few weeks were hell: scared to talk, hands sweating, people looking – I just didn't want to make a fool of myself.' After a few weeks he started to talk to others in the group. 'Then the unthinkable happened. I started to enjoy maths and understand it. There's no stopping me now, I thought.'



For information about courses near you call 0800 100 900

Visit www.alw.org.uk/calendar for more information about activities that are taking place as part of Adult Learners' Week in your area.

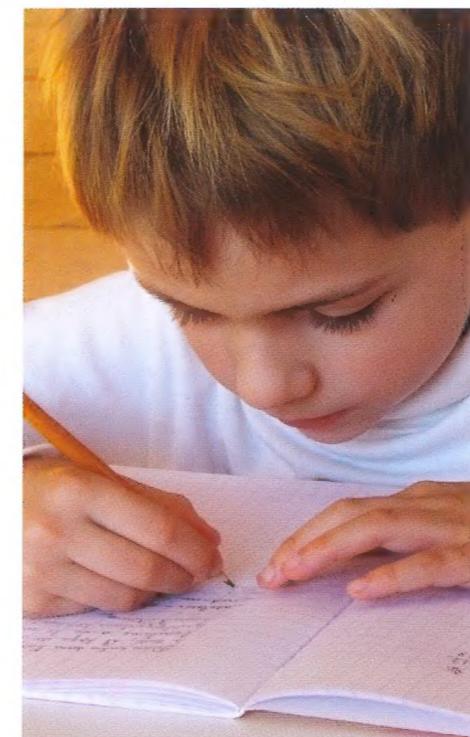
Elated at passing the national Level 1 maths exam (he dropped the phone and started dancing when he got the news), he enrolled in a literacy programme and again passed. By now his appetite for learning was growing rapidly and he took on creative writing. Nine months later, with a string of stories and poems under his belt, he returned to the school and recruited 25 other parents to the programme.

Paul says that learning has improved his confidence and changed his life for the better. 'You can have a laugh and meet new friends. You don't have to let your past experiences, the little demons in your head, get to you. Give it a go. You never know what's around the corner.'

The Bloomer Family's story highlights the impact of learning on three generations of the same family. Helen Bloomer, 39, Sam,

41, and Eve, 35, have 18 children and five grandchildren. 'We left school with no qualifications to have babies and we have decided we need to do something better than nappies and housework.' At first Helen in particular was against the idea of getting back into learning after so many years. But she was won over by her sisters and a sense of family responsibility, and now reels off the qualifications the family has done together. 'We have Level 1 and 2 literacy, classroom assistant Level 1, and are now working on a teaching assistant NVQ Level 2 and Level 1 and 2 adult numeracy.' The family's achievements are remarkable because of their commitment and the number of them involved. 'Learning together has been enjoyable because we have supported each other,' says Helen. 'We have managed to stay to the end of all our courses. Our children and family are very proud of us and what we have achieved.'

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Each program offers a variety of activities ranging from listening exercises to workbooks and interactive computer drills. This ensures that students are stimulated to learn and allows teachers to observe and measure the way that each child engages with different media and to tailor the programs to produce maximum results. With the exam season now approaching parents need to act now to give their children the best chance of success.

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FAMILY FUN CLEANING UP COMMUNITIES!



Sometimes it can be difficult to think up new and exciting ways to keep the kids entertained during the school holidays. So this Easter break, why not try something different and take part in a Big Tidy Up?

Now in its second year, the campaign, which is run by Keep Britain Tidy, is a community based project designed to inspire groups and families from every walk of life to get together and clean up their local area.

The concept is simple, register your support on the Big Tidy Up website www.thebigtidyup.org and you'll receive a free clean-up kit containing posters, stickers and badges, tabard bibs and litter bags, as well as top tips and advice. Then you simply choose a date which suits you and you're ready to set off and start clearing that unsightly litter blighting your local neighbourhood!

You can make a difference - Since its



launch in September 2008, the project has been a huge success. Over 10,000 groups have already taken part in tidy ups, clearing over 20,000 bags of rubbish. The 2009 campaign was officially launched in March this year so there's never been a better time to get involved.

The Big Tidy Up is open to everyone throughout England, so whether you want to do something with your family, school or with friends and neighbours, this is the ideal opportunity to make a true difference to your community.

AWARDS! < < < < < <

What's more, new for 2009 are the Big Tidy Up Awards, which will honour those tidy ups that have made the biggest difference to their local area. Whatever your background, now is the perfect time to pledge your support.

Order your free clean-up kit today at www.thebigtidyup.org and join the vast network of people already helping to make England a cleaner and greener place to live.

YOUR CHILD CAN HELP CHILDREN WITH CANCER!



Kick for Children with Cancer is a fundraising campaign to raise money for CLIC Sargent, the UK's leading children's cancer charity. All you do is encourage your child's school, football club or youth club to hold a fun football event. Children get sponsored to take part and the school or club get to keep 25% of any money they raise. Organisations can register and we will send you a free pack which contains everything you need to hold a great event.

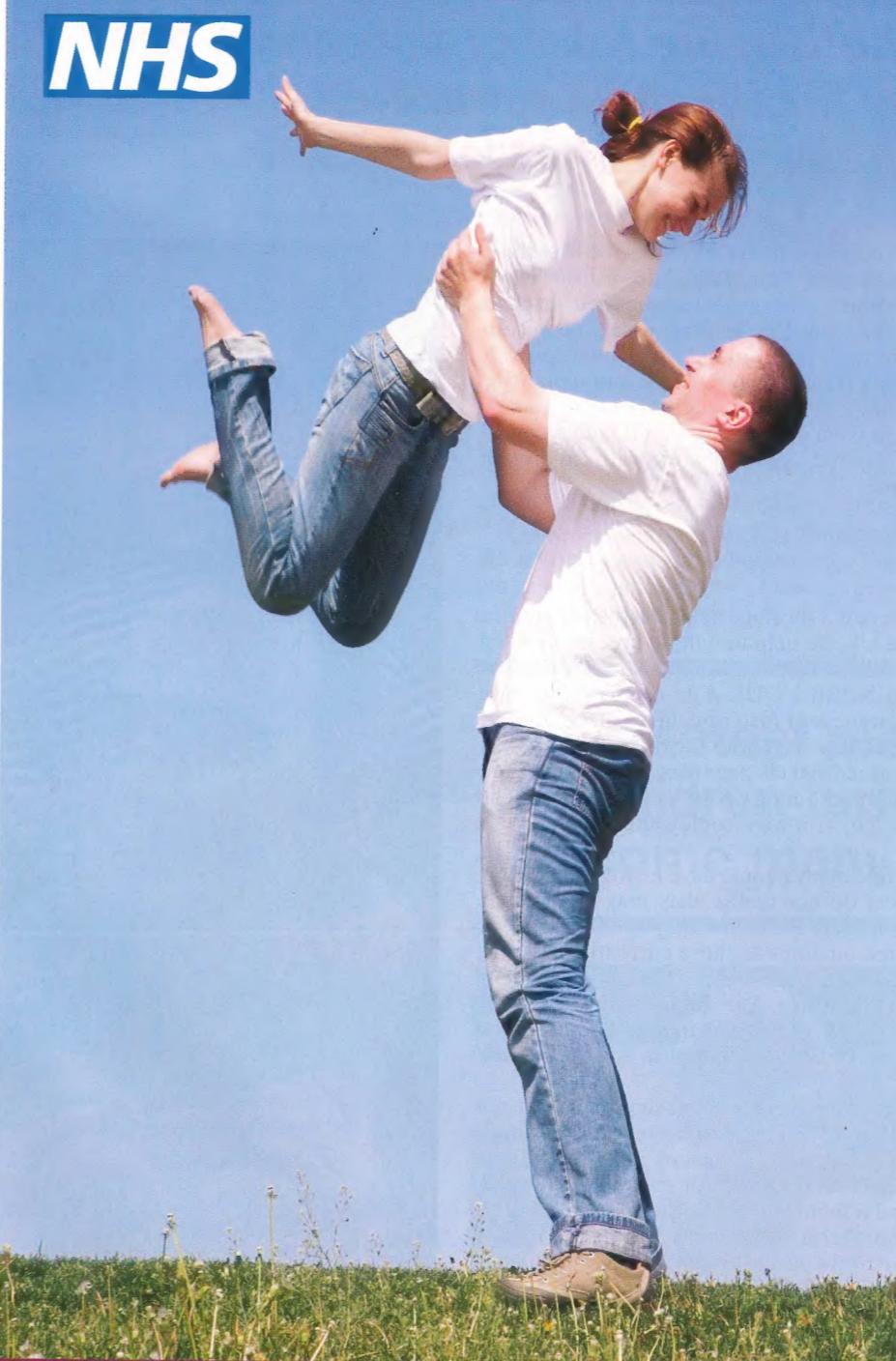
Register today by visiting www.clicsargent.org.uk/football or by calling 08451 20 22 32

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Leading child psychologist and parenting skills expert of Dr Pat Spungin, added:

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FOSTERING: A CAREER THAT CHANGES LIVES

There is an outdated and stereotypical view that still exists of foster carers. Many believe fostering to be the role of a married, stay-at-home mum, and kind hearted families who open up their homes to needy children. Many believe fostering is just part of the adoption process. Many are wrong writes Angela King, the Fostering Network

Foster care has changed dramatically over the last 30 years. Today fostering is a career, uniquely combining family life with a skilled profession. There are now over 50,000 vulnerable children living in foster care across the UK, many of whom have complex needs. While foster carers still offer children a loving and nurturing home for as long as they need it, the service they provide has evolved to one where professional standards are required.

Educational and social outcomes provide a crude but powerful marker of society's success so far in looking after children in care. Only 12 per cent of young people in care get five GCSEs grades A-C in England, compared with 59 per cent of the general population. Twenty-five per cent of the adult prison population has spent time in care and 15 to 17 year old girls who have been in care are three times more likely to become teenage parents than others of their age.

But good foster carers can make a real difference to these outcomes for children in care. They are highly skilled and use their personal qualities to deal with the complex challenges of looking after someone else's child, helping to break the cycle of educational underachievement among children in care.

"There are so many rewards when a child in my care realises that they are safe," says Pauline Ockerby from Macclesfield, who also works as a classroom assistant in her local school. "When a child in my care is making progress sometimes the steps are so tiny even I don't recognise it and it takes maybe their social worker or my supervising social worker to point this out to me, and it's very rewarding when I'm told, 'Remember what this child was like this time last year?'"

Foster carers are trained before they start fostering and are offered ongoing professional learning and development opportunities. They receive an allowance, cover the costs of looking after a child, and many are paid a fee for their skills and time.

"Being a foster carer is one of the most challenging roles of my career, but by far the most rewarding. I wouldn't change it for the world."

"Becoming a foster carer was the best thing I ever did," says Janie Ashton from Hertfordshire, who is also a qualified teacher. "Every day I'm helping young people to turn their lives around. As well as providing a caring, nurturing home and supportive family life to these children, I am also a now professional child care expert, and a crucial part of the team that works with children in care."

Have You Ever Thought About Fostering?

There is a shortage of 10,000 foster carers in the UK. To help find these urgently needed families Foster Care Fortnight, the Fostering Network's UK-wide campaign to raise awareness of fostering, takes place from 11 to 24 May 2009, with the theme of fostering: a career that changes lives. To find out more about becoming a foster carer call 0800 040 7675 or visit www.couldyoufoster.org

While many people have heard of fostering, most do not realise they may be suitable. Some may not realise they already share the same qualities as those currently fostering, and that these are the basis for becoming a foster carer. The qualities include strong listening and observational skills, a good sense of humour, optimism and resilience.

Fostering may be a full-time task, but not everyone chooses to foster seven days a week. Respite carers look after children on a part-time basis – for example one weekend a month – to give their family a break. Short-term foster carers look after a child for up to several months, while long-term foster carers can take a child on from a young age until they reach adulthood.

www.couldyoufoster.org

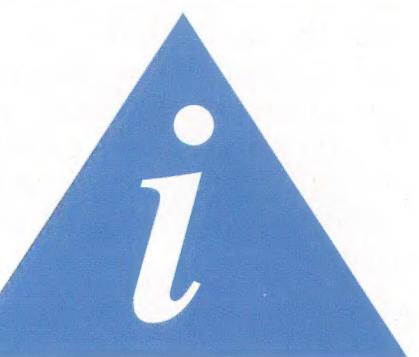


INSPIRED FOSTER CARE

Being a male foster carer can often bring with it a unique set of challenges but Dave King (51), from Bolton Le Sands in Lancashire, is an inspiration to anyone who is thinking about fostering. Working with the UK's leading independent fostering organisation, Foster Care Associates (FCA), Dave is a primary carer responsible for looking after some of society's most troubled youngsters. His commitment is second to none and despite the ups and downs he faces on a day-to-day basis he remains positive and upbeat.

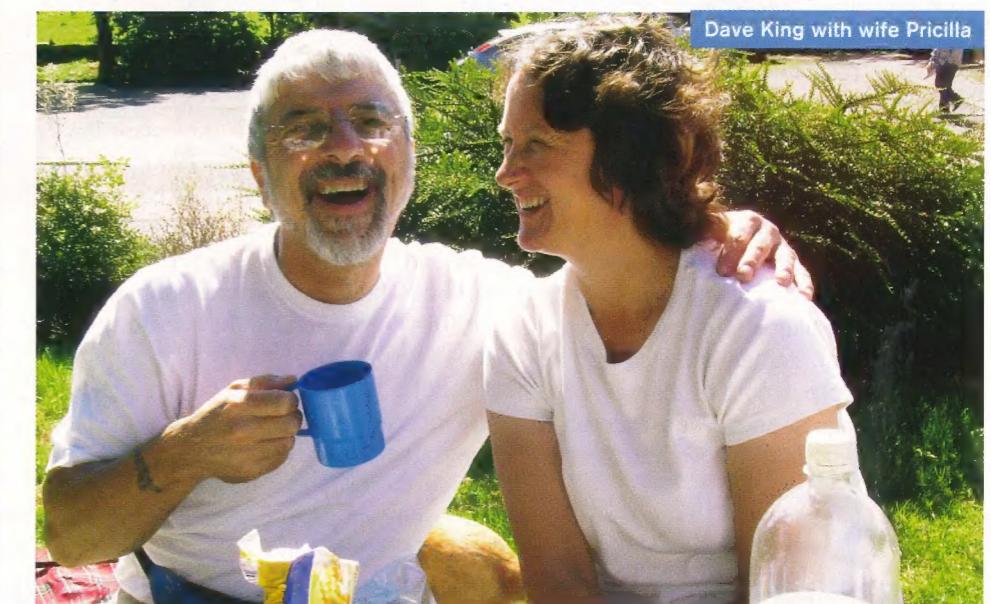
He adds: "The greatest pleasure is to see the children turn the corner and overcome many emotional hurdles. At the end of the day, they are seeking stability and security from a happy and caring family environment. If we are able to do that, then I truly believe we have made that positive difference." With the support provided by FCA, Dave and Pricilla have the full back-up from a team of professionals who are dedicated to ensuring the needs of every foster carer and foster child are met. On-going training and regular meetings and forums at a local level provide the necessary tools to ensure each carer is properly equipped for the fostering task.

FCA has a strong presence across the North West with eight offices across the region including a regional headquarters in Manchester. With the national shortage of foster carers around 10,000 across the UK, FCA is continually seeking to attract new carers who believe they have the skills to take up this challenging yet hugely rewarding role.



Anyone who is interested in finding out more about fostering should call FCA on freephone 0800 085 2225 or visit the website www.iwanttofoster.com

"The greatest pleasure is to see the children turn the corner and overcome many emotional hurdles."



Dave King with wife Pricilla

"Making a positive difference to the lives of the children we care for is what it is all about," says Dave. "All the boys we have looked after seem to thrive and develop a true sense of identity which is so important. I'm always encouraging them to develop interests whether this is drawing or playing sport. I believe every child has an individual talent and it's just a case of having the patience and understanding to explore various avenues with them."

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FROZEN FOODS... ARE THEY THE WAY FORWARD?

Many people are under the illusion that fresh produce is of superior quality to frozen produce. This, however, is not always the case. While fresh food has the reputation of better quality, it is more often than not transported for miles and left out in chillers or boxes until the last item has been sold. Freezing is nature's own form of preservation. It is easy and convenient, perfect for today's busy parents. While most foods do freeze well, some don't. Fruits and vegetables with a high water content such as watermelon, tomato and lettuce will not freeze without change, their quality will deteriorate so these food are best eaten within a few days of purchase.

Yvonne Bishop-Weston, nutritionist at www.theNewIceAge.com, says: 'We're all aware that healthy eating should be on the top of our agenda. A recent survey* showed that 44% of women feel under pressure to cook more nutritional meals for the family. However with busy schedules and seemingly fewer and fewer hours in the day our best intentions are sometimes not met.'

Incorporating frozen foods into you and your family's meals is not only time-saving and economically sensible, but will also provide you with a high quality, nutritious and convenient solution to many of your dietary worries.

These days it is a rarity to have vegetables and fruits that are picked and

eaten straight away. As freezing stops food from deteriorating, frozen items are generally on par and sometimes higher in vitamins and minerals than their equivalents that are sold in an unfrozen state. For example, frozen oven chips have 33% more vitamin C than chips you cut yourself from fresh potatoes. When foods are rapidly frozen, the vital nutrients and vitamins needed to maintain a healthy and balanced diet are locked in until they reach your plate. So make sure you keep your freezer stocked up, and tap into the natural goodness of frozen!'

Maybe frozen food is the way forward, give it a go and let us know! Find out more at www.theNewIceAge.com

Email your thoughts through to liz@familymagazine.co.uk



ORGANISED MUM

According to a recent survey conducted by Organised Mum, a startling 75 per cent of mums confirmed that they are spending at least £20 per week more on food shopping due to continued price hikes of many regular grocery items. In fact, 25 per cent of them believe they are actually seeing a crippling increase of at least £40 per week on food bills.

When asked what measures families are taking to cut down weekly food bills, 59 per cent said they are taking greater care when planning meals and are generally trying to buy less, a further 22 per cent said they were buying the same products but have switched to cheaper own-brand versions and 19 per cent have even ditched their favourite supermarket for a cheaper alternative.

Sarah Sadler at Organised Mum comments: "More now than ever, families need to ensure they are getting value for money from what they spend on food each week, but focusing on what you buy is just as important as not over spending in the first place. Our survey has already revealed that people are making changes to the way they shop and that they are prepared to look at different ways of making cut backs if needed. A little bit of good old fashioned organisation and planning can also do wonders for your bank balance".

Sarah Sadler suggests the following cost-saving tips for your weekly food shop:

Start by making a note of what is already in your cupboards and fridge; bring things to the front that have a shorter use-by-date. This will ensure you see them when you open the cupboard and this will act as a reminder for you to use them.

Take the time to sit down and make a weekly meal plan making sure that you include recipes that will use any food stuffs that are nearing their use-by-date.



When making the list ensure that you have considered the week's activities, for example, one of your children may be out at a sleepover and won't require dinner that night. You can then use the meal plan to make a shopping list that makes sure you only buy the food you will need for that week's meals.

Make sure your shopping list includes everything you need for the week. As well as the extra petrol used to get the supermarket, popping back for the odd item you forgot means you may be tempted to buy extra food. It's a good idea to have a shopping list somewhere handy and visible in the kitchen so that as soon as you have run out of something you can write it on the list.

Golden rules of shopping: don't shop when you are hungry and if possible, don't shop with your children. Inevitably, if you food shop whilst hungry you are more likely to be tempted by the mouth watering delicacies on show and without the children in tow you are more likely to stick to your list without being swayed by the plaintive cries of your children urging you to buy the latest sugar-covered cereal with the toy in it!

Buy your free range eggs from local farms rather than the supermarket at around 75p for a dozen rather than £1.50 for half a dozen. Eggs are also very versatile and can make a great evening meal for the family.

Buy your meat from the supermarket 'reduced' cabinets and freeze it for use at a later date.

Change your lunch habits. Make your sandwiches at home in the morning before you leave for work, or do one single shop at the supermarket on a Monday morning and buy everything you need for your lunch that week. You will still save pounds over buying pre-packed sandwiches every day.

Look out for special offers at your supermarket, stock up on good deals – but don't be tempted to overspend on something that you didn't need. Stick to your list and only indulge in special offers if you need or will need the item anyway.

www.organisedmum.co.uk

FOOTBALL CRAZY

As a young lad I was really lucky to have a dad with a real professional experience as before he had a career ending injury was playing in Feyenoord's top and reserve teams. Dad used to teach me all the skills I would need as I was getting older so I had the advantage over all the other boys. The age of 5 was old enough for me to join an indoor football tournament with my brother Ben, he was 6. My brother and I loved it so much my dad (Graham) decided that it was time to take us to an outdoor football club with the name of Pine Rivers Football Club. My footballing career started out a bit rough as I moved clubs 3 or 4 times. As I grew older I mainly moved clubs because of friendships. Now that I'm 15 I realize that it was wasn't a very wise thing to do. The smartest thing to do at the time was stay at a club with quality coaching because that's all that matters when you're older.

At 14 I was lucky enough to have the experience of traveling to Italy with my footballing club Brisbane City F.C. and training with some world wide known clubs like A.C Milan and Juventus. I went to Italy with a coach and a footballing squad to play some games and train with the Italian boys my age. For the time we were in Italy we played 7 games and trained with various different Italian clubs. The quality of some of the players in Italy was unbelievable for their age. Most of the players that the club took over just couldn't keep up with the tempo the Italian boys played at. I just wish I went over at an older age as 14 is far too young to be signed and contracted by a club.

England was always a country I had to go to. After nights and nights of watching the English Premier League, it was a dream to be able to come to England and train with some of the various different clubs i.e. Sheffield Wednesday, Sheffield Utd and Charlton Athletic. All three clubs were brilliant. Comparing the standards of Italy and England I would have to say that England has the better standard of football between the two.

I think if I had any advice for younger players it would probably be if you have an idol that plays in the same position as you, watch them closely and learn by practicing the things they do. My idol is Steven Gerrard who plays for Liverpool and I try to play like him as much as I can, I watch him over and over to pick up the things that he does, that's where I want to be in the future, playing in the middle of the park for Liverpool. My other piece of advice for young footballers who have aspirations of making it big one day would be to stay at a club with a quality coach that has big plans for the future.

Oh, and I like chocolate.



Stonyhurst College Sports Club Swimming Lessons



Places are now available in our group swimming lessons.

Lessons are available:
Tuesday / Wednesday
Thursday / Saturday

Fully qualified swimming teachers.
Small groups.
Beginners to advanced
Large indoor swimming pool.

For more information and bookings telephone the Sports Club on 01254 87015



Little Feet of Barrowford

Little Feet of Barrowford are the largest stockists of children's shoes in the area, with a wide range of classic and continental brands to suit all tastes. Start-Rite shoes in half sizes and width fittings are complimented by a variety of colourful continental styles, from first shoes for infants, to fashion shoes and sturdy school shoes up to size seven!

All the staff at Little Feet hold Star-Rite qualifications in shoe fitting and as parents themselves they appreciate the importance of getting the right shoes for the right occasion. Whatever footwear you require for your child - pre-walkers, wellies, slippers, fashion or school, visit Little Feet, the one stop children's footwear specialist. Listed on the Child Foothealth Register, Member of the Society of Shoefitters since 2004.



- Stockists of:
- Rondinella • Angulus •
 - Birkenstock • Mod 8 •
 - Primigi • Ricosta •
 - Hush Puppies •
 - Miss Sixty •

NEW SEASON Lelli Kelly & Geox NOW IN STOCK

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Weekdays 10am - 5.15pm
Saturday 9.30am - 4pm

Stockist of:  **Gift vouchers now available**

I Nora St, Barrowford, Junction 13, M65 Tel: 01282 698111



Lettuce sells desirable, beautiful and contemporary children's clothes that have been cherished by others. "Go Green" and recycle your children's clothes.

Based on a farm in the beautiful Ribble Valley, Lettuce is a new and exciting concept in the children's clothing retail market. Lettuce sells desirable, beautiful and contemporary children's clothes (0-14) that have been cherished by others. "Go Green" and recycle your children's clothes: Lettuce takes in your lightly-worn designer children's clothes and shoes, sells them and gives you a percentage of the selling price. It really is that simple!

Lettuce will only handle the best, concentrating on upmarket brands such as Pampolina, Oilly, Catimini, Jean Bourget, Diesel, Burberry, Timberland and Ralph Lauren to name a few. "Boho chic on the Farm": To complement the cherished clothes, Lettuce is developing its own collection of boho designs using vintage fabrics and reconditioned wools.

This new enterprise is the brainchild of Emma Drage, a local mother of three young girls. Emma's background is in the luxury goods market and Childrenswear PR. Emma felt that there were no outlets



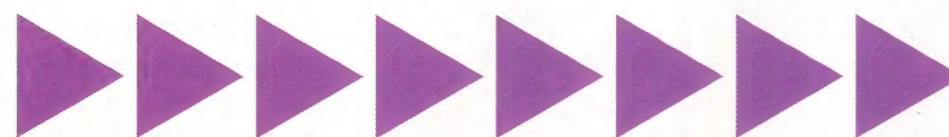
where vintage and quality cherished children's clothes could be recycled in a sophisticated retail environment. Lettuce was born!

Lettuce is based at the prestigious Backridge Farm development (www.backridge.co.uk) alongside other upmarket retail outlets, artists and artisans together with llamas in the fields and a fabulous cafe, deli and bakery.

All in all a trip to Backridge Farm makes for a wonderful day out!

0844 736 6165
www.lettuceonline.com
Backridge Farm, Waddington, Nr Clitheroe

MORE ADVENTURES FROM WORLD BOOK DAY DUO YUCK AND WINNIE THE WITCH!



Following the success of the special Yuck and Winnie the Witch £1 World Book Day 5+ flip book, we bring you more exciting individual adventures from these hilarious characters.

Winnie the Twit

By Laura Owen and Korky Paul
Publishing 5th March, £3.99 paperback

Winnie the Witch and Wilbur have made so many friends in their picture books that they have decided to embark on longer adventures. Winnie's younger fiction series is perfect for older Winnie fans to enjoy, for reading alone or sharing at bedtime.

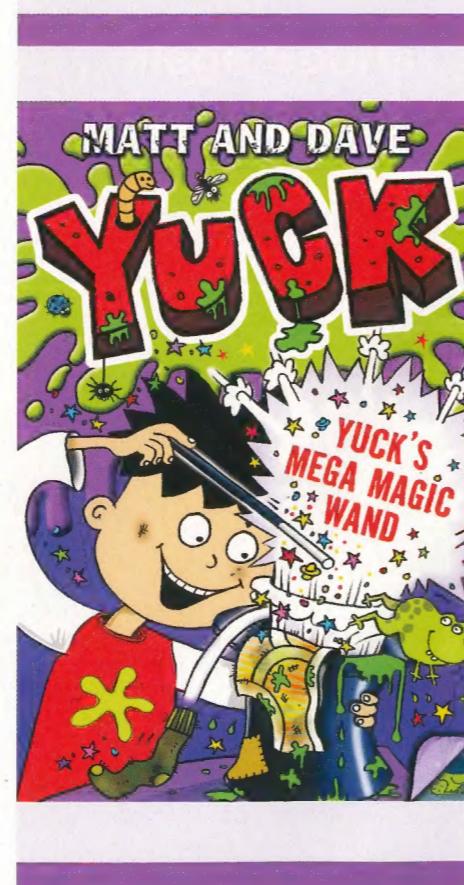
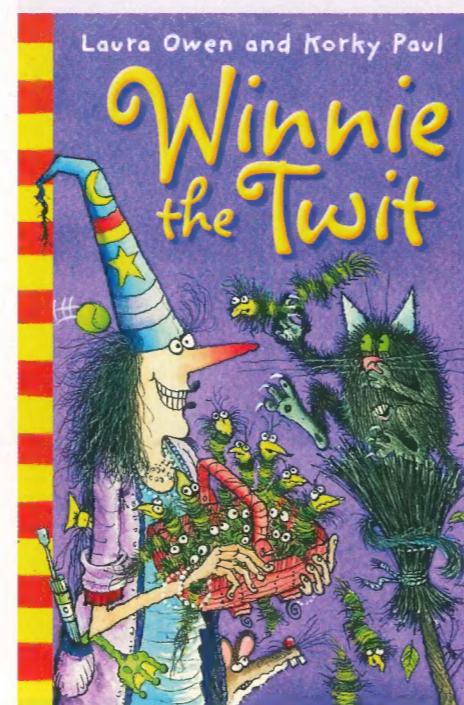
Winnie the Twit features four crazily funny stories with everyone's favourite witch, her big black cat, Wilbur, and a zany supporting cast of new characters. With Winnie mishaps in the school canteen and disastrous DIY attempts, Winnie the Twit is pure magic!

Yuck's Mega Magic Wand

By Matt and Dave
Publishing 9th April, £4.99 paperback

Magic and mayhem from Yuck - the muckiest, yuckiest, naughtiest little boy EVER! Yuck's laugh-out-loud gags, bucket-loads of cheek and wildly imaginative schemes have kids captivated - the stories are absolutely perfect for reluctant readers. The books get children laughing, finding new enjoyment in their reading and encourage them to continue with a fun (and yucky!) series. Follow Yuck's gruesome adventures in two more hilarious stories in this bestselling series. Lots more yucky fun for first readers guaranteed to get you giggling!

Both stories are accompanied by fun, black and white drawings from Korky Paul (Winnie the Witch) and Nigel Baines (Yuck!), helping to bring the worlds of Winnie and Yuck to life. They are brilliant for young readers and accessible for children of all reading abilities.



Family Magazine Interview Children's Author Anna Claybourne



Anna what is your favourite dangerous thing from the book?

Probably some of the animals - I love writing about big cats, sharks, snakes and spiders - and also the volcano pages as that's one of my favourite topics.

Is there anything that you feel should have been entered in the 100 Most Dangerous Things book that didn't fit?

Well, obviously there are other types of dangerous things that could have gone in - there are lots of dangerous diseases and the germs that cause them, and of course one of the most dangerous things on the planet is human beings - they cause all sorts of damage, start wars and so on. But those things didn't really suit the book very well, as they aren't immediate situations and there's not much you can do about a lot of them.

Where did your ideas for the dangerous things come from?

I thought about the main types of dangerous situations, and looked up world records and statistics about things like natural disasters, dangerous animals and dangerous weather. One of the best sources of information was news stories, as it's usually news when there are natural disasters or animal attacks.

Do you prefer to write fact or fiction?

I write mostly fact books and I think that's what I do best, but I'm just starting to do some fiction and I love it in a completely different way. Overall I would have to say facts though.

How does it feel to have been shortlisted for a Blue Peter book award?

It's very exciting! Everyone in Britain knows about Blue Peter - and I especially like this award because it's partly voted for by readers, so winning it would mean a lot.

Is it true that you work in a sleeping bag?
Yes of course!

Where did that idea come from?

When you work at home during the day, it's a waste to have the heating on for just one person (and actually my office isn't heated anyway). If you just sit at your desk in a sleeping bag you keep warm. I have a special sleeping bag with armholes! I love the cosy snuggly feeling too. It's one of the best things about working at home, because if you took a sleeping bag to sit in at work, you'd get funny looks.

What was your favourite subject at school?

I'll sound swotty if I say everything, but I was interested in most subjects - English, maths, history, science, and art and music too (I still like drawing and I play the trombone in a band). When I was very small I wanted to be a doctor or scientist, but that changed to wanting to be a writer - so maybe English was my top favourite.

Have you done any of the dangerous things?

In 2002 I spent several months doing conservation volunteering in Costa Rica in Central America, and there I encountered several of the things - I trekked in the jungle at night, saw wild crocodiles, riptides, and huge spiders and scorpions, and came close to a nest of killer bees. There were sharks and deadly snakes there too, though I didn't see them. Most exciting of all for me, I went to the top of an active volcano called Volcan Poas, and saw another volcano, Arenal, actually erupting. I have to admit the volcanoes were quite safe though!

If you did, which one was your favourite?

Volcan Arenal was the most amazing thing of all. You can't climb to the top (that would be very dangerous) but I stayed in a ranger station at the foot of it and at night

you could see it shooting out lava. It also made a loud chuffing noise like a steam train, and booming noises, so you could *hear* it erupting as you lay in bed.

How did you pick the 100 Most Dangerous Things?

Of course, it's very hard to measure the actual top 100 most dangerous things as it depends how you measure it. Instead, I tried to choose dangerous situations that would be interesting and exciting to read about, and situations where there are useful things you can do to escape. Of course I also tried to include a good mix of different types of things.

Do you have a person or place that is your inspiration?

Not really - I have some favourite writers who I've always admired, like Roald Dahl, but they aren't really the same kind of writers as me. Non-fiction writers rarely get to be famous so I don't remember the names of the ones whose books I read as a child. But I do remember the great fact books I had that got me interested in things like the human body, animals and experiments.

What is your next project?

I'm writing books about explorers, energy, pirates and volcanoes at the moment, and some rhyming stories for young children. I usually work on several books at once.

Are you a natural risk taker?

Not at all! I'm actually very nervous and would hate to do anything like bungee jumping or parachuting. But I do like adventures and seeing new things, and I do do things I'm scared of. For example I am scared of flying, but I do it because I don't want that to stop me from seeing new places and having fun.

A Way Of Life

The Headmaster of Stonyhurst College has a vision - his aim is for the College and the adjacent Preparatory school, Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall, to be the premier schools in the region, and to be leaders in Catholic education throughout the world.

Andrew Johnson passionately believes in the Stonyhurst way of life. Nestled in the heart of the Ribble Valley it is a magnificent building steeped in history, with spectacular panoramic views and tremendous facilities.

Stonyhurst is inspired by Jesuit values to encourage every pupil to give their very best, doing absolutely everything they do as well as they can, to the very best of their ability - in the classroom, on the sports field, in the music room, or on the stage. Every student is an individual, with different needs and talents. Stonyhurst's aim is to develop and focus on young people to encourage their leadership qualities and nurture them to their full potential in pursuit of excellence, to give them the opportunities to make the most of their qualities by giving them the confidence to do so.

"Stonyhurst College and Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall are not just schools but a way of life," he says.

Stonyhurst's aim is to develop leaders by supporting and understanding how they can expand their goals and horizons. Older students are encouraged to take responsibility for the leadership of younger ones, and pupil-led initiatives, developing leadership and commitment to others, are to be found in all aspects of school life.

Following the production of *Les Misérables* last year, which Mr Johnson says was "the best school production I have ever seen anywhere," the school has just finished the renovation of the music department with state-of-the-art practice rooms. This year in terms of music, there is a focus on developing music scholars. On the stage, pupils performed *Romeo and Juliet* in December, the end of term production will be *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and a wide range of concerts has taken place throughout the term, including one featuring the music scholars. The Schola Cantorum, Stonyhurst's auditioned choir, has recently sung in Liverpool and Hereford.

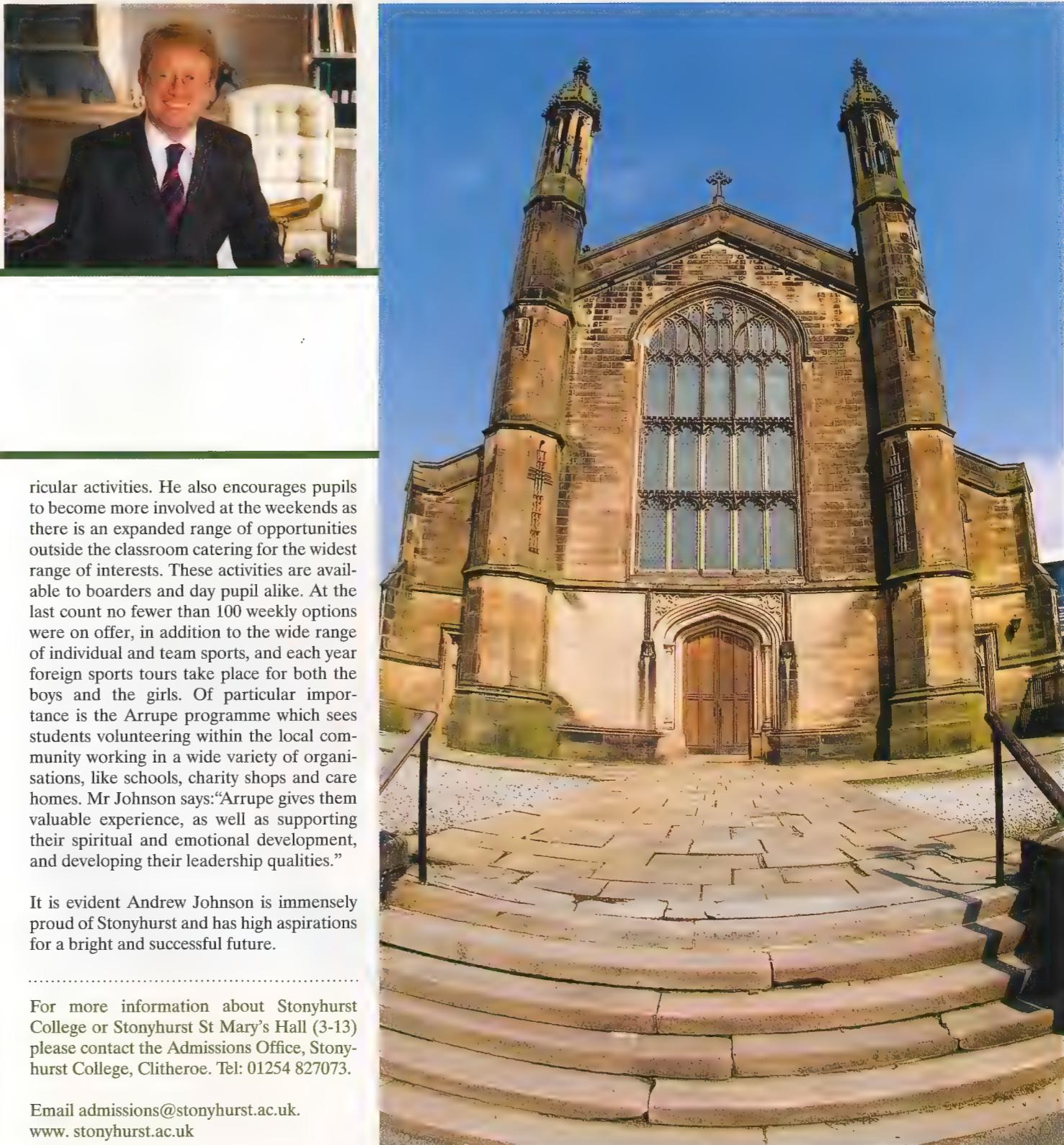
Academically Mr Johnson is delighted that six pupils successfully achieved places to Oxford and Cambridge this year, thanks to improved Oxbridge preparation; they will be joined by another pupil who left school in 2008 but has postponed her entry to this summer. A new tutorial system which works on a one-to-one basis means that individuals are encouraged to achieve their personal best, thanks to regular and targeted support on all aspects of a pupil's school life.

Stonyhurst is an expanding school and new development to provide facilities for a larger intake of pupils is underway. In a few years time the current building work in progress will cater for this increase. There will be a

new multi-gym, dining room and health centre, and the development of the sixth form centre to include increased boarding facilities, as Mr Johnson believes there is a demand for boarding specifically in the sixth form, preparing young people for a smooth transition to university. He believes that Sixth Form pupils whether boarding or day, can learn to be independent in the structured Stonyhurst environment as a preparation for the less structured life of a university campus.

Since the Jesuits are an international order with schools throughout the world, Stonyhurst has always had a minority of foreign pupils, whether from Europe, Africa, the Far East or South America. Mr Johnson believes that this international dimension enhances the educational experience of all his pupils, and offers an extra benefit to the day pupils as they prepare to take their place in an increasingly multi-cultural society.

Whilst boys and girls at Stonyhurst board separately, they study, pursue their interests and activities, and socialise together, in a way which Mr Johnson believes "creates a natural environment in which they can grow up together, and is therefore much better than a single sex school". Since he has been Head, he has introduced increased mentoring and support, and more weekly extra-cur-



ricular activities. He also encourages pupils to become more involved at the weekends as there is an expanded range of opportunities outside the classroom catering for the widest range of interests. These activities are available to boarders and day pupil alike. At the last count no fewer than 100 weekly options were on offer, in addition to the wide range of individual and team sports, and each year foreign sports tours take place for both the boys and the girls. Of particular importance is the Arrupe programme which sees students volunteering within the local community working in a wide variety of organisations, like schools, charity shops and care homes. Mr Johnson says: "Arrupe gives them valuable experience, as well as supporting their spiritual and emotional development, and developing their leadership qualities."

It is evident Andrew Johnson is immensely proud of Stonyhurst and has high aspirations for a bright and successful future.

For more information about Stonyhurst College or Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall (3-13) please contact the Admissions Office, Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe. Tel: 01254 827073.

Email admissions@stonyhurst.ac.uk
www.stonyhurst.ac.uk

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admissions@qegs.blackburn.sch.uk



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Caring family environment.
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Affordable fees.

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SAT'S SUCCESS!



The Standard Assessment Tests are compulsory exams that children at Key Stage one must undergo. The SATs show each child's progress against others that were born in the same year. At Key Stage 1 level they include English (spelling, comprehension and writing) and Maths (written and mental mathematics.) Upon reaching Key Stage 2 and 3, Science is also included in the SATs. Many argue SATs can detrimental to a child's confidence in learning as the pressure to perform and excel is put upon them from such an early age. Still, SATs are still part of the curriculum and all that can be done is to ensure children are calm, confident and know their stuff!

As with any exams, children do worry about the SATs. They are a stressful time when the whole family can feel the effects. The easiest way to cope with the anxiety is to prepare and encourage your child. With a little self confidence your child can enter their exam with a clear head, knowing they can pass with flying colours! Preparation can come in many forms, it is often best to know how your child learns before deciding on a technique. With younger children, colourful spider diagrams are usually more effective rather than page after page of notes.

Incorporating their favourite cartoon characters onto colour coded flash cards stuck around their bedroom or even the whole house works a treat, remembering what they've already learnt becomes almost a game. Sticking them to the bathroom cabinet or the fridge are prime spots as they are used daily, they will be seen and every time they open the fridge or brush their teeth, and associating brushing their teeth with that fact, they recall what that particular flash card says.

Spider diagrams are a great way to drill in information. They are also fun to produce so your child won't dread doing them. Get some different coloured paper for each topic and get creative! Make the diagram into an actual spider or an octopus. Show your child learning is fun.

Quick quizzes to see how much your child has remembered can be done on the way to school, or instead of flicking the television on when they come home from

school. This way, they get used to being asked questions about what they know. Encourage your child to think about their answer for a few moments before saying the first thing that pops into their head. Once they are aware of thinking before speaking, thinking before writing becomes second nature and instead of just writing and writing to fill space, they write clear and concise answer that are accurate and relevant.

When the day arrives, sit your child at the table for a good breakfast, reassure them, run through anything they are not sure of, let them re-read notes or flash cards if they like and when it is time leave the house and head toward school, they should be thoroughly prepared and (reasonably) relaxed – making things at home a lot easier!

If you have real concerns about your child's learning or the amount their worried about the SATs then speak to their school, the sooner the better and put the concerns to bed. Outside tutors, online tutors, revision guides, help from older siblings who have done SATs will all aid in calming frantic nerves. Who knows, with the correct groundwork now, setting your kids into a routine when it comes to exam time at primary school age, all the preparation that goes into the SATs could help with exams taken in later life, GCSE's and A Levels could become so much easier with the right research and habits.

HOME-START EXTENDS INTO THE RIBBLE VALLEY

Home-Start is a national voluntary organisation which offers informal, friendly support to parents with at least one child under the age of five. Home-Start recognises the difficulties faced by parents, especially during the early years, and that any additional pressure can sometimes make things seem overwhelming.

Home-Start Pendle was established in December 2000, following consultation across the Borough of Pendle. Initially the scheme was intended to operate in Nelson but the steering group decided to extend the area to include Colne and the whole Pendle area and now includes the Ribble Valley.

Home-Start recruit, train and support volunteers who, in turn, offer support and friendship to other parents through home visiting. A Home-Start volunteer supports the family for as long as the family feels they need it - this can be weeks, months or even years. The service is free, confidential and non-judgmental.

The families who receive help come from a wide variety of backgrounds and need support for different reasons, for example: post-natal illness, loneliness, relationship problems, disability or the demands of coping with several small children. Families are often referred to Home-Start by their health visitor, GP or social worker but some people contact the scheme directly.

The scheme is based at Bridgewater House in Nelson and Ribblesdale Children's Centre in Clitheroe and the team comprises of Millie McLachlan, Senior Organiser, Kishwar Mahmood, Organiser, Vicky Bates, Health Development worker, Katherine Ashworth and Julie Raine, Administrators.

If you would like any further information regarding the scheme or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact one of the team on 01282 690536 or e-mail: homestart@ribblesdale-nur.lancs.sch.uk.



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- Music in Schools Service

WHO DO I RING?

For further details ring the office between 9am-12noon and 4pm-7pm (weekdays), or 8.30am-4.30pm (Saturdays)

Tel/Fax: 01254 677204

Music for Families, Wesley Hall, Feilden St, Blackburn BB2 1LQ

www.musicforfamilies.co.uk

What's On?

Your guide to what's on in your local area during Spring!

March

(From 7th Feb)

- Saturday May 9th

Egyptomania

Bolton Museum, Museum, Aquarium and Archive, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, BL1 1SE

This exhibition will show the influence of Egyptian art and culture on other civilisations, ranging from ivory furniture made for Assyrian kings in the eighth century BC to cotton woven in Bolton. Rare and beautiful objects, including a Renaissance illuminated manuscript and objects made for Napoleon, will rub shoulders with modern costume jewellery, satirical prints and tourist souvenirs.

www.whericanwego.com



www.whericanwego.com

www.whericanwego.com

March / April

March / April

Sunday March 29th

Spring Time Proms

ConcertLowther Pavilion, Lytham, St Annes, FY8 5QQ

The Lytham St Annes Guardian Concert Band & Operatic Society bring you a spring prom concert. An evening of popular choral and instrumental music together with Proms favourites.

www.whericanwego.com

01253 658666

Monday March 30th

Preston Bird Watching and National History Society

St. Mary's Church Hall, Cop Lane, Penwortham, Preston.

PR1 0SR At 7.30pm we are to enjoy a return visit of Dr. Keith Robinson, former Curator of the Jeremiah Horrocks Observatory in Preston, with a talk entitled "Images of the Night Sky" illustrated with digital

photographs taken through a telescope by Keith himself.

4th and 5th April

The Lancashire Food Festival

Accrington Town Hall, Blackburn Road, Accrington, BB5 1LA 01254 380293

"A feast of a festival guaranteed to tantalise your taste buds!"

Winner of - 'The Best Tourism Event of the Year Award - at the Lancashire and Blackpool Tourism Awards 2008/09.

This ever popular event returns to Accrington with a host of exciting food to sample and buy. Showcasing the best food and drink from Lancashire and beyond, there will be something for everyone.



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Come and visit our Nursery
We accept children from Birth to 11 years
Sessional & Full day care
51 weeks a year

Ofsted Registered

Ring Julie: 01772 491787

Brockholes Wood, Brant Road,
Preston, PR1 5TU.

SureStart Early Years Teacher Holiday Club

Brockholes Wood Foundation Nursery

Brockholes Wood First Foundation Nursery has been developed to offer continuous provision for children from birth to five years. Due to our expansion into the school nursery, we can now offer more free sessions for all eligible 3 and 4 year olds, we provide before and after school and we also run a holiday club from 5 yrs to 11 yrs. We ensure a high standard of care at all times for your child's emotional, intellectual, physical and social needs will be met. We offer a happy and stimulating environment for children to learn, play and explore through a wide range of exciting activities to meet with stage of development.

Our aim is to offer a warm and friendly environment for your child, to enable them to build on previous experiences to expand knowledge, language, developing independence through daily activities and routines within the nursery. Within the nursery professionally qualified staff aim to stimulate learning in a happy and secure environment. We welcome parents and children from all cultures and are more than happy to meet with any special requirements that you may have.

Please call 01772 491787 to find out more.

November

Lancashire County Cricket Club
Old Trafford, Manchester,
Lancashire, M16 0PX

Lancaster Castle
Shire Hall, Castle Parade,
Lancaster, Lancashire, LA1 1YJ

Lancaster City Museum
Market Square, Lancaster,
Lancashire, LA1 1HT

Lancaster Maritime Museum
Custom House, St Georges
Quay, Lancaster, Lancashire,
LA1 1RB

Leighton Hall
Leighton Hall, Carforth,
Lancashire, LA5 9ST

Louis Tussauds Waxworks
89 Promenade, Blackpool,
Lancashire, FY1 5AA

Martin Mere Wildlife and
Wetlands Burscough,
Lancashire, L40 0TA

Met Arts Centre and Studio
Market Street, Bury,
Lancashire, BL9 0BW

Morecambe FC
Christie Park, Lancaster Road,
Morecambe, Lancashire,
LA4 5TJ

North Pier Theatre
North Pier, Promenade,
Blackpool, Lancashire, FY1
1NE

Nuffield Theatre
University of Lancaster
Bailrigg, Lancaster, Lancashire,
LA1 4YW

Octagon Theatre
Howell Croft South, Bolton,
Lancashire, BL1 1SB

Oldham Athletic FC
Boundary Park, Oldham,
Lancashire, OL1 2PA

Pavilion Theatre At Winter
Gardens Church Street,
Blackpool, FY1 1HW

The 'Paint Your Own' Pottery Studio

A fun place where you can pop
in and paint your own designs
on to blank ceramics, which we
will then glaze and fire for you.

The 'Paint Your Own' Pottery
Studio is located at Backridge,
Waddington and is the
ideal place to express your
imagination. Produce a piece
of pottery that is truly individual
here at Paint Pot. We strive to
encourage creativity and help to
capture your personality in your
piece.

The good news is we aren't
just strictly for children; we also
cater for birthdays, ladies nights
and groups as well as offering
a mobile service. Paint Pot is
great fun for all ages and no
experience is necessary.

Although we are a 'drop in'
studio, you are welcome to

make a reservation and we will
keep a table for you. Please feel
free to come along and enjoy
the experience!

Opening Times:

Tuesday 12 - 4pm
Saturday 10am - 5pm
Sunday 11am - 5pm

We are open Monday to Friday
during school holidays.

Additional hours / days available
by arrangement.

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Nr Clitheroe Lancs
BB7 3LQ
01200 422344

Upcoming Events

Thursday 26th March Open between 7pm - 10pm
Ladies Night - The ever popular 'Ladies Night' is back!
BYOB and some girly friends and look forward to an evening
of music, wine and of course a little painting!
Sunday 5th April Open between 11am - 5pm
Paint a gift for Easter
Paint a unique gift from a wide choice of Easter inspired
pottery Free chocolate egg for all painters
April 23rd 7pm - 10pm Ladies Night
Tables reserved strictly by advanced booking only



SALMESBURY HALL
LANCASHIRE'S HISTORIC HOME

EASTER SUNDAY FUNDAY
12th April 2009 - 11.00 am - 4.30 pm
Face painting, Competitions and Easter Eggs

EASTER MONDAY CRAFT FAIRE
13th April 2009 - 10.00 am - 4.00 pm
The very finest in Lancashire Food & Crafts

Salmesbury Hall also has a restaurant café, stunning grounds with guinea pigs, hens and ducks for the children to enjoy, Lancashire's best Arts and Crafts exhibition, West Wing Antiques and the Lancashire shop.

Salmesbury Hall
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Salmesbury
(3 mins from Jnc 31 M6)
Tel: 01254 812010
www.salmesburyhall.co.uk

ODEON
FANATICAL ABOUT FILM

*"Human's of Earth, my quest has lead me to
your planet. Give it to me now! You should, in
no way, take any of this personally. It's just
business. Gallaxhar out"*

Monsters vs. Aliens 2009

To celebrate the release of Monsters vs. Aliens in 3D Odeon Epsom are offering one lucky reader the chance to win a complete Birthday Party Package.

Digital 3D ensures a virtual cinema experience with the action taking place around rather than in front of you.

Prizes consist of admission to the see Monsters vs. Aliens in 3D for 8 children and 2 adults, a film feast for each child (popcorn, drink and sweets) and activity pack for each child.

Advance shows Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th March then opens nationwide on Friday 3rd April booking in of prize up until Thursday 16th April.

This Easter ooze gonna save us?

DreamWorks Animation in Real D 3D - Making movies more magical than ever - When California girl named Susan Murphy (voice of Reese Witherspoon) is unexpectedly clobbered by a meteor full of outer space gunk, she mysteriously grows to 49-feet-11-inches tall and is instantly labelled a 'monster' named Ginormica. The military jumps into action, and she is captured and held in a secret government compound. The world learns that the military has been rounding up other monsters over the years, this ragtag group consists of the brilliant but insect-headed Dr. Cockroach (voiced by Hugh Laurie), indestructible B.O.B (voiced by Seth Rogen); and the 350-foot grub called Insectosaurus. Their confinement time is cut short however when a mysterious alien robot lands on Earth and begins storming the country. As a last resort, under the guidance of General W.R. Monger (voice of Kiefer Sutherland), on a desperate order from The President, the motley crew of Monsters is called into action to combat the aliens and save the world from imminent destruction!

For film times and booking information visit
www.odeon.co.uk or call 0871 22 44 007

To be in with a chance of winning simply
answer this question...

**"In Monsters vs. Aliens who is called upon
to save earth?"**

Send answers to - Odeon Competition, Family Magazine,
Chapel House, 5 Shawbridge Street, Clitheroe BB7 1LY.

EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY

The East Lancashire Railways operates a 12 mile heritage railway line from Heywood to Rawtenstall. Running through the picturesque Irwell Valley, the railway uses a variety of classic steam and diesel traction on its trains, and operates every weekend and bank holiday (excluding Christmas Day) throughout the year, plus Wednesday to Friday from May to September. Generous discounts are available for group and repeat bookings and the railway can cater for parties of all sizes. The railway's main station is at Bury Bolton Street, but in addition there are staffed stations at Heywood, Ramsbottom and Rawtenstall. All our stations are wheelchair accessible and we welcome disabled visitors, although there is only limited accommodation available for wheelchair passengers. Most trains have an on-board buffet, serving a range of hot and cold drinks and a selection of snacks.

For more information on the East Lancashire Railway please telephone 0161 764 7790 or visit www.east-langs-rly.co.uk

EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY
THE NORTH WEST'S PREMIER HERITAGE RAILWAY
Bolton Street Station, Bury BL9 0EY

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AN ALL WEATHER ATTRACTION**

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www.east-langs-rly.co.uk

Places to Visit

Pendle Hippodrome
New Market Street, Colne,
Lancashire,
BB8 9BJ

Rochdale Art Gallery
Touchstones Rochdale,
The Esplanade, Rochdale,
Lancashire, OL16 1AQ
Saddleworth Museum
High Street, Uppermill, Nr
Oldham, Lancashire,
OL3 6HS

Samlesbury Hall
Samlesbury, Preston,
Lancashire, PR5 0UP

Stage and Screen
St Marys Centre, Church Street,
Clitheroe, Lancashire,
BB7 2DG

Tameside Hippodrome
40 Oldham Road,
Ashton-under-Lyne,
Lancashire,
OL6 7SE

Happy Easter from
everyone here at
Family Magazine!!



WINDMILL ANIMAL FARM

a great family day out!

Come and experience the every day running of an actual working farm, have the chance to watch, feed, touch and play with animals, enjoy a ride our steam train!

Open Daily Easter to Mid September - 10am to 5pm - 7 Days a week
October to Easter - Open Weekends and School Holidays, group bookings are available all year round. Children must be accompanied by an adult, suitable for wheelchairs, parties by prior arrangement only.

THE WINDMILL ANIMAL FARM
Red Cat Lane, Burscough, Lancashire L40 1UQ
Telephone: 01704 892282 • www.windmillanimalfarm.co.uk

Easter Holidays

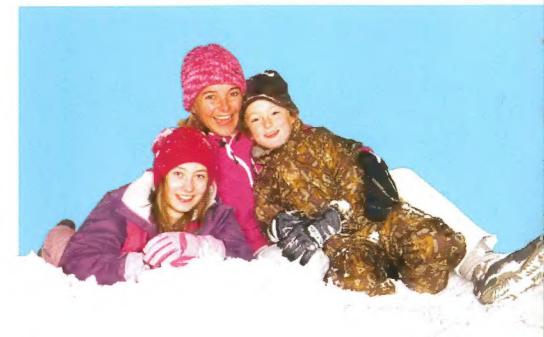
4th-19th April

- Pond dipping
- Wetland croquet
- Fun games & crafts
- Plastic duck races

For details visit www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere

MARTIN MERE
WWT Wetland CENTRE

Fish Lane, Ormskirk
Lancs L40 0TA
Tel: 01704 895181



COOL FAMILY FUN AT MANCHESTER'S ALPINE SKI VILLAGE

If you want to treat the kids to a day out with a difference during the Easter holidays, why not take them to Manchester's Chill Factor^e?

There's plenty to entertain the whole family, from whizzing down the slope in tubes or enjoying a thrill-seeking experience on the ice luge. There's even a 12 metre climbing wall to tackle in the Alpine village. And younger children can have lots of fun exploring the magical children's snowplay area.

Friendly, professional instructors are on hand to introduce the whole family to skiing or snowboarding on the dedicated nursery slope, while those who've skied before can take advantage of the year-round perfect snow conditions on the main slope.

Families can experience a real flavour of the Alps without spending a fortune, with taster ski or snowboard sessions from as little as £19 for adults and £14 for children, and tube and luge sessions costing just £12 per person. If you are keen to learn to ski or board before your next holiday you can learn in a day with an intensive Beginners Course from £130 for adults and £120 for children. All equipment is included and you can bring your own warm clothing (clothing is also available to hire). Remember to bring your gloves, it's -1°C out on the snow!

But Chill Factor^e is about a lot more than just skiing. With plenty of free parking, the authentically-themed Alpine village street is a

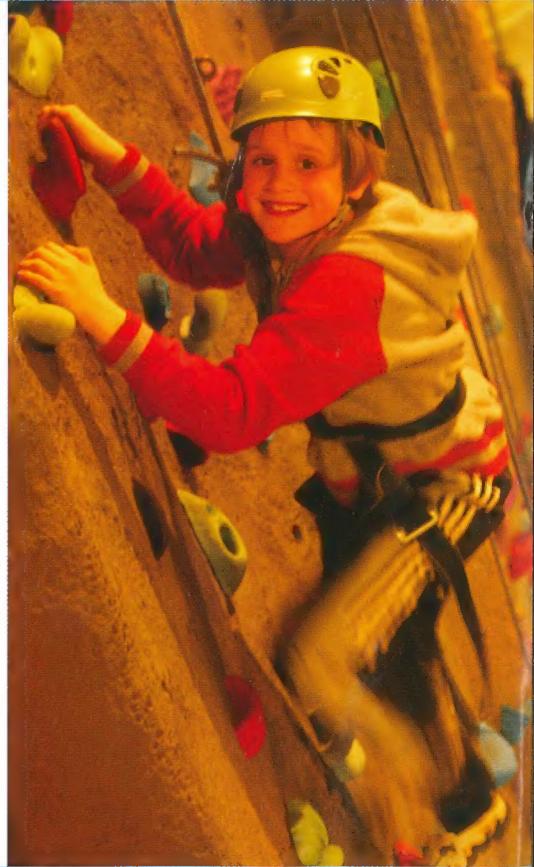
great place to take the family for a bite to eat. There's something to tempt tastebuds of all ages in Nando's, Chiquito or Wetherspoons' Castle in the Air, or you can soak-up the après-ski atmosphere of Chilli's Sports Bar and the Eiger or Mont Blanc restaurants.

Entrance to the Alpine village is free, so you can pop in for a hot chocolate in the slope-side coffee shop, quench your thirst with a refreshing smoothie at Boost Juice bar, or treat the kids to an award-winning Frederick's Ice Cream.

The Alpine village at Chill Factor^e is also a great place to update the whole family's wardrobe. You'll find family favourites Dare2b, top international active lifestyle names, Snow+Rock and Quiksilver, specialist cycle store Evans Cycles and trendy Subvert, all under one roof.

You can even celebrate that special occasion at Chill Factor^e, with bespoke party packages available to give children a birthday to remember.

Chill Factor^e is located just off junction 10 of the M60 and has free parking for visitors.



Find out more at www.chillfactore.com
or call 0161 749 2222

chill factor^e
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